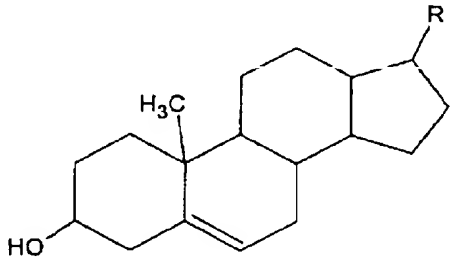
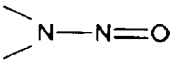
Serial No. 09/745,226

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-32 (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A drug delivery system comprising a medical article and a nitric oxide releasing compound comprising a lipid molecule selected from (a) phosphoglycerides, (b) lipid molecules having a sphingosine base as a backbone, (c) monoacylglycerols, (d) diacylglycerols, (e) glycosylacylglycerols, and (f) sterol molecules of the formula:



where R is a branched aliphatic chain of eight or more carbon atoms,
said lipid molecule comprising a nitric-oxide containing group selected from (a) a —S—N=O group, (b) a —O—N=O group, and (c) a  group.

34. (original) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the medical article is a bandage or a patch.

35. (original) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the medical article is an intravascular medical device.

36. (original) The drug delivery system of claim 35, wherein the intravascular medical device is selected from a balloon catheter, an injection catheter, an infusion catheter, a stent, a stent graft, and a distal protection device.

37. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is provided within a polymer matrix.

38. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 37, wherein the matrix is a biocompatible stable polymer matrix or a biocompatible biodegradable polymer matrix.

39. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is dissolved or dispersed in a solution.

40. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is adsorbed on a tissue-contacting surface of said medical article.

41. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33,wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is provided within a micelle or a liposome.

42. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of (a) an auxiliary therapeutic agent having antineoplastic activity, (b) an auxiliary therapeutic agent having antiproliferative activity, or (c) an auxiliary therapeutic agent having both antineoplastic and antiproliferative activity.

43. (previously presented) A method for therapeutically administering nitric oxide to a patient comprising administering the drug delivery system of claim 33 to said patient.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the drug delivery system is administered topically.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the drug delivery system is administered within the body.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the drug delivery system is administered by implantation.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the medical article is an intravascular delivery device.

48. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the intravascular delivery device is selected from a balloon catheter, an injection catheter, an infusion catheter, a stent, a stent graft, and a distal protection device.

Claim 49 (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a condition selected from atherosclerosis and myocardial infarction in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

51. (previously presented) A method of treating or preventing restenosis in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said restenosis.

52. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a condition selected from peripheral vascular disease, stroke, impotence, septic shock and arthritis in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

53. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a condition selected from cancer and bacterial infection in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

54. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a condition selected from one or more of impetigo, epidermolysis bullosa, eczema, neurodermatitis, psoriasis, pruritis, erythema, hidradenitis suppurativa, warts, diaper rash and jock itch in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

55. (previously presented) A method of promoting wound healing in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to promote said wound healing.

56. (previously presented) A method of reducing cells present in an atherosclerotic lesion in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to reduce the cells present in said atherosclerotic lesion.

Claim 57 (canceled)

58. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is a lipid molecule having a sphingosine base as a backbone.

59. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 58, wherein the lipid having a sphingosine base as a backbone is N,N,N-trimethylsphingosine.

60. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 58, wherein the lipid having a sphingosine base as a backbone is a sphingolipid.

61. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 60, wherein the sphingolipid is a ganglioside.

62. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is said phosphoglyceride.

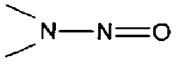
63. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 62, wherein the phosphoglyceride is phosphatidylinositol or phosphatidylcholine.

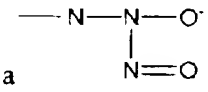
64. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is said sterol compound.

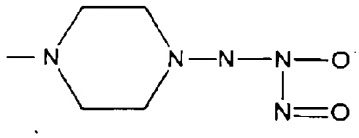
65. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 64, wherein said sterol compound is cholesterol.

66. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a —S—N=O moiety.

67. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a —O—N=O moiety.

68. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  moiety.

69. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 68, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  moiety.

70. (previously presented) The drug delivery system of claim 69, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  moiety.